

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/771,772

Examiner

Ismael Negron

Applicant(s)

STOUT ET AL.

Art Unit

2875

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed May 19, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,5,6 and 8-13.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

1. Applicant's amendment filed on May 19, 2006 has been entered. Claims 1, 3, 8, 10 and 12 have been amended. Claim 7 has been cancelled. No claim has have been added. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 8-13 are still pending in this application, with claims 1 and 6 being independent.

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

2. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 8-13 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant claims a vehicle lamp assembly having a reflector, a light source a lens, and a reflective glare-reducing shield. The shield is rotated within a plane generally perpendicular to the optical axis of the reflector, between a first and a second position, the second position producing a lower illumination level in a foreground area, than the first position. The shield includes a ring with a vacant center, teeth arranged about the ring, and a section protruding into the center of the ring. A method of illumination utilizing such shield is also claimed.

**Alphen** (U.S. Pat. 4,075,469), **Miyauchi et al.** (U.S. Pat. 4,875,141), **Nakazawa et al.** (U.S. Pat. 4,922,390), **Ikegami et al.** (U.S. Pat. 5,158,352), **Jones** (U.S. Pat. 5,426,571) and **Taniuchi et al.** (U.S. Pat. 6,663,270) disclose vehicle lamp assemblies having means to change the illumination pattern of the assembly in response to a sensed/desired condition, the means for changing the illumination pattern including a

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masking element rotated in a plane generally perpendicular to the axis of the lamp assembly, such element having teeth arranged about the element. However, the cited references fail to disclose individually, or suggest in combination, a masking element including a ring with a vacant center, teeth arranged about the ring, and a section protruding into the center of the ring.

No prior art was found teaching individually, or suggesting in combination, all of the features of the applicants' invention, specifically a reflective glare reducing shield rotated between a first and a second position, within a plane generally perpendicular to the optical axis of the reflector, such shield including a ring with a vacant center, teeth arranged about the ring, and a section protruding into the center of the ring.


4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ismael Negron whose telephone number is (571) 272-2376. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra L. O'Shea, can be reached on (571) 272-2378. The facsimile machine number for the Art Group is (571) 273-8300.

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, go to <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) toll-free at 866-217-9197.

  
**ALI ALAVI**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

  
**Ismael Negron**  
**Examiner**  
**AU 2875**